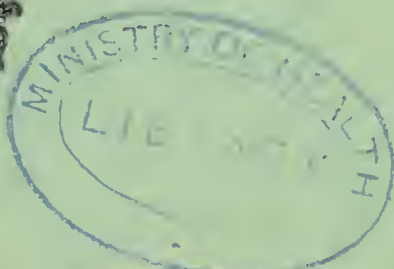


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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

including the Report of the

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

for the year

**1952**

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*Printed by The Caxton Press, High Street, Waltham Cross*

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# Urban District Council of Cheshunt

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1952-1953

Councillor R. FINCHAM (*Chairman*)

Councillor D. E. BREEZE

Councillor W. C. CLARK, J.P.

Councillor J. W. GILLSON

Councillor E. A. JENNINGS

Councillor A. G. WEBB

Councillor R. WHITLOCK

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):*

CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.Ch.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):*

JOHN A. CURRIE, M.B., B.S.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Petroleum Act :*

C. WILSON, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (1, 3, 4)

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :*

S. C. BAKER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2, 3)

### GENERAL

*Clerk/Typist :* Miss T. PAVELY

*Clerk :* Mr. E. J. DAY

*Mortuary Attendant (Part-time):* Mr. G. WARNER

*Rodent Operative:* Mr. T. CRESSWELL (Resigned 19.1.52)

Mr. G. WHITTAKER (Appointed 5.2.52)

(Resigned 13.9.52)

Mr. E. N. PERRY (Appointed 2.10.52)

(Resigned 29.11.52)

Mr. P. F. DEAN (Appointed 15.12.52)

### KEY TO QUALIFICATIONS OF SANITARY INSPECTORS:

1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
3. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
4. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MANOR HOUSE,  
CHESHUNT.  
July, 1953.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Cheshunt.*

I have the honour to present my seventh annual report, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district during the year 1952.

Vital statistics for the district show that the downward trend in the birth rate which has occurred since 1947 continues and at 14.95 the rate is slightly lower than the comparable birth rate for England and Wales, which is 15.3. The death rate for Cheshunt at 7.58 is the lowest recorded since 1925. The comparable rate for England and Wales is 11.3. Of the total deaths in Cheshunt 38.5% occurred at the age of 75 or over and two male and four female deaths occurred at age 90 or over.

Early in December Cheshunt was involved in the "disaster" of the London fog and in the period immediately following there was a sharp rise in Cheshunt deaths due to pneumonia and bronchitis.

In its effects on human and animal health this fog was probably the worst in the history of air pollution. It caused deaths in the London area on a scale possibly never experienced from this cause before.

Cheshunt has no industrial smoke problem but as the centre of the Lea Valley glasshouse industry, smoke has added significance locally as a menace to horticulture.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 6 in 1952 compared with 11 in 1951.

The notification rates of scarlet fever and whooping cough were comparatively high but there were no cases of diphtheria or dysentery during the year. Diphtheria, however, must not be considered to have been eliminated and it is important that all children should receive protection by immunisation, which can be obtained free by consulting the family doctor or through the infant welfare centres.

There was one case of food poisoning during the year. Much attention is given by the department to food hygiene and progress was made in securing improvements at premises where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale.

I should like once again to record my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and all members of the staff for their co-operation and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support in the work of the department.

C. R. HILLIS,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## Section I

### STATISTICS

AREA: The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's Estimate:

1941	18,310	1945	18,700	1949	21,490
1942	18,610	1946	20,230	1950	22,180
1943	18,590	1947	21,080	1951	23,290
1944	18,700	1948	21,210	1952	23,880

			1952	1953
Number of inhabited houses on the rate books (at 31st March)			6,657	6,905
Rateable Value	...	...	£150,155	£156,187
Sum represented by penny rate			£600	£624

### VITAL STATISTICS

		BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION CHESHUNT		DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION CHESHUNT	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1943	...	380	20.44	204	10.97
1944	...	373	19.95	209	11.18
1945	...	333	17.8	202	10.8
1946	...	432	21.35	188	9.29
1947	...	494	23.43	226	10.7
1948	...	418	19.71	209	9.85
1949	...	381	17.73	213	9.91
1950	...	354	15.96	221	9.96
1951	...	395	16.96	222	9.53
1952	...	368	15.41	213	8.92

### COMPARABILITY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole the crude birth and death rates for the area should be multiplied by the area comparability factor supplied for the purpose by the General

Register Office. When local crude birth and death rates have been so adjusted, they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The adjusted rates for Cheshunt, together with the crude rates for England and Wales for comparison, are as follows:

	Crude Death Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1950	9.96	0.85	8.47	11.6
1951	9.53	0.85	8.10	12.5
1952	8.92	0.85	7.58	11.3

	Crude Birth Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1950	15.96	0.97	15.48	15.8
1951	16.96	0.97	16.45	15.5
1952	15.41	0.97	14.95	15.3

	1951	1952
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	24.69	31.58

Deaths from puerperal causes:

Deaths from puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	Nil	Nil
Deaths from other maternal causes	Nil	Nil

#### DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:

Year	Cheshunt		England and Wales	
	No. of Deaths	Rate	Rate	
	All infants per 1,000 live births			
1943	...	13	34.21	49
1944	...	13	35.00	46
1945	...	12	36.03	46
1946	...	15	34.72	43
1947	...	11	22.27	41
1948	...	6	14.35	34
1949	...	17	44.62	32
1950	...	8	22.59	29.8
1951	...	11	27.85	29.6
1952	...	6	16.30	27.6



# BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1952

(Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns)

Rates for 1,000 home population.

		England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident popula- tion 25,000- 50,000)	London Admin. County	Cheshunt
BIRTHS:						
Live Births	...	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6	14.95
Still Births	...	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34	0.50
DEATHS:						
All causes	...	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6	7.58
Typhoid and Para typhoid	... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough	..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Diphtheria	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	...	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31	0.17
Influenza	... ..	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	—
Smallpox	... ..	0.00	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis)	... ..	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	—
Pneumonia	...	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58	0.71
NOTIFICATIONS ( <i>Corrected</i> ):						
Typhoid Fever	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Paratyphoid Fever	.	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	—
Meningococcal infection	...	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	—
Scarlet Fever	...	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56	3.10
Whooping Cough	.	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66	3.69
Diphtheria	...	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	—

# NOTIFICATIONS (*cont.*)

Erysipelas ...	...	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14	0.21
Smallpox ...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles ...	...	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23	8.33
Pneumonia ...	...	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57	1.09
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis)						
Paralytic ...	...	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.08
Non-Paralytic .	.	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	—
Food Poisoning ...	...	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18	0.04

## Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)—

### Notifications (Corrected):

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ...	...	17.87	23.94	10.22	30.77	—
------------------------------------	-----	-------	-------	-------	-------	---

## Rates per 1,000 Live Births—

### Deaths:

All causes under 1 year of age ...	...	27.6	31.2	25.8	23.8	a
Diarrhoea and En- teritis under 2 years of age ...	...	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7	a

(a) not included since comparisons based on very small numbers have little statistical significance.



# CAUSES OF DEATH:

	Male	Female
All Causes ... ..	115	98
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	3	1
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—
Syphilitic diseases ... ..	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
Cancer ... ..	21	19
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	1	1
Diabetes ... ..	—	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	15	16
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	10	15
Hypertension with heart disease ...	4	4
Other heart disease ... ..	19	11
Other circulatory diseases ... ..	4	5
Influenza ... ..	—	—
Bronchitis ... ..	11	3
Pneumonia ... ..	10	7
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea ... ..	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	2	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	6	9
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	—	—
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	3	1
All other accidents ... ..	1	3
Suicide ... ..	1	—

## Section II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD SERVICES

PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. daily, except Saturday and Sunday.
CHEST CLINIC	Honey Lane Hospital, Waltham Abbey. Mondays, 2 p.m. (A.P. refills, 10.45 a.m.)
OPHTHALMIC CLINIC	Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Fridays, 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

#### COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE	Fire and Ambulance Station, Cheshunt. Establishment on 31st December, 1952: 2 shift leaders 6 ambulance drivers 1 ambulance 1 sitting case car
DAY NURSERY	The Chestnuts, Waltham Cross. 40 places for children 0 to 5 years. Waiting List on 31st December, 1952—13.
HOME HELP SERVICE	Organizer: Mrs. M. Ellis, Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Hours: Monday to Friday, 10 to 11 a.m. Establishment of Home Helps at 28th December, 1952—42. Cases assisted during 1952—183.
WELFARE CENTRES	Labour Hall, College Road, Cheshunt. Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends. Nockhold Hall, Goff's Lane, Goff's Oak. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Rear of Greenfield House, High Street,  
Waltham Cross:

Minor Ailments Clinic, Monday to  
Friday, 9 to 10 a.m.

Dental Clinic—by appointment only.

Speech Therapy Clinic, Fridays, 9 a.m.  
to 12.15 p.m. and 1.30 to 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic, Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to  
12 noon. Midwives only. Monday,  
9 a.m. to 12 noon, Doctors attend.

Infant Welfare Centre, Wednesdays,  
1.45 to 4 p.m.

HEALTH VISITORS  
AND SCHOOL  
NURSES

Mrs. C. E. Tuscher, Nurse's Cottage,  
Broxbourne (Hoddesdon 2656). (H.V.  
and School Nurse, Wormley.)

Miss Churchill, Welfare Centre, High  
Street, Waltham Cross. (Waltham Cross  
3401.)

Miss J. P. Baker, Welfare Centre, High  
Street, Waltham Cross.

Miss J. P. Young, Flat 4, Goff's Oak Villa,  
Goff's Lane, Cheshunt. (Cuffley 2420.)

DISTRICT NURSES  
AND MIDWIVES

Mrs. C. E. Tuscher, Nurse's Cottage,  
Broxbourne. (Hoddesdon 2656). (Mid-  
wife, Turnford and Wormley.)

Miss Hitchon and Miss Skidmore, Green-  
field Cottage, 178, High Street, Waltham  
Cross. (Waltham Cross 3127.)

Miss Smith, 24, Cromwell Avenue,  
Cheshunt. (Waltham Cross 3580.)

Miss M. G. Brown, Flat 4, Goff's Lane,  
Cheshunt. (Cuffley 2420.)

Miss E. L. Day, Park Cottage, Flamstead  
End. (Waltham Cross 3410.)

Mrs. A. V. Howlett, The Lynch Gate, 68,  
High Street, Wormley. (Part-time general  
nurse.)

## OTHER SERVICES

### BLOOD TRANSFUSION

The Cheshunt Recruitment Committee of the National Blood Transfusion Service arranged blood donation sessions at the Welfare Centre, Waltham Cross.

Dates of future sessions and further information may be obtained from Miss Munns, the Secretary of the Recruitment Committee, at Speedwell, Blindmans Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 3026.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

A hospital laboratory service is available at Chase Farm Hospital and at the Public Health Laboratory at the Hertford County Hospital, and specimens and patients may be referred to the laboratories.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During the year no action was taken by the Council under Section 47 of the Act, for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

### MORTUARY

The mortuary is situated in a building at Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year six bodies were received in the mortuary. Internal redecoration of the building was carried out during the year.

### Section III

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The following table shows details of diseases notified during 1951 and 1952:—

			1951	1952		
			Cases Notified	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...		88	74	11	—
Measles	...	...	580	199	3	—
Whooping Cough	...		71	88	5	—
Pneumonia	...	...	35	26	1	17
Erysipelas	...	...	6	5	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...		1	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...		—	2	2	—
Acute Encephalitis	...		1	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	8	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...		—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia						
Neonatorum			1	1	—	—
Tuberculosis	...		9	18	—	4

### SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases of scarlet fever during the year, although slightly less than in 1951, was again high.

Practically all the cases were of a very mild type.

### MEASLES

The incidence of measles during the last ten years is shown in the following table. In 1952 it followed the pattern of previous years in that a minor epidemic has occurred on alternate years.

Year				Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1952	...	...	...	199	8.33
1951	...	...	...	580	24.90
1950	...	...	...	22	0.99
1949	...	...	...	450	20.94
1948	...	...	...	128	6.04
1947	...	...	...	324	15.37
1946	...	...	...	59	2.91
1945	...	...	...	251	18.7
1944	...	...	...	14	0.75
1943	...	...	...	420	22.59
1942	...	...	...	38	2.04

### WHOOPING COUGH

The comparative incidence of whooping cough during the last ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year				Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1952	...	...	...	88	3.10
1951	...	...	...	71	3.05
1950	...	...	...	130	5.86
1949	...	...	...	48	2.23
1948	...	...	...	108	5.09
1947	...	...	...	147	6.97
1946	...	...	...	53	2.61
1945	...	...	...	26	1.39
1944	...	...	...	172	9.19
1943	...	...	...	19	1.02
1942	...	...	...	116	6.23

### POLIOMYELITIS

Six cases of Poliomyelitis were reported during the year but in four cases the provisional diagnosis was not confirmed.

The two confirmed cases were both females, one aged 56 years and the other 6 years. One was notified in the first quarter of the year and the second in the third quarter.

Three contacts with a case of Poliomyelitis in an adjoining area, who were resident in this district, were reported and they were kept under observation for the prescribed period.

## FOOD POISONING

One case of suspected food poisoning only was reported during the year, the patient being a girl two years of age. The causative agent was not discovered.

## DYSENTERY

No cases of dysentery were notified in Cheshunt during the year although a mild type was prevalent in neighbouring areas. During March stool specimens were submitted to the laboratory from four suspected cases in this district but all were reported upon as negative.

## TUBERCULOSIS

New cases, 1952—classified by age groups:

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—5	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	—	—	—	1
15—25	1	3	—	1	5
25—35	3	—	—	—	3
35—45	2	1	—	—	3
45—55	2	—	—	—	2
55—65	3	—	—	—	3
65 upwards	1	—	—	—	1
	13	4	—	1	18



Number of cases from other areas transferred to Cheshunt, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of cases from other areas transferred to Cheshunt, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	14

There were four deaths attributed to tuberculosis in Cheshunt during 1952, giving a death rate per 1,000 of the population of 0.17 compared with the rate for England and Wales of 0.24. Comparisons of rates based on such small numbers are, however, likely to be misleading.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relate respectively to infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis and engaged in the handling of milk and to the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

A display of cinema slides and an advertisement in the local press was arranged with the Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council as joint publicity for the two areas in support of the campaign.

#### SCABIES

One case of scabies was referred to the department for treatment during the year. Since no facilities were available for treatment at the patient's home special arrangements were made for the case to be treated at Cheshunt Cottage Hospital.

#### DISINFECTION

Terminal disinfection of rooms and bedding is systematically carried out after open cases of tuberculosis. Generally after scarlet fever, occupiers are advised thoroughly to cleanse and ventilate the room and to wash with soap and water all articles of contact.

## Section IV

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

## REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 2,670 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 553 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

#### SUMMARY

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	178
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects ... ..	324
Number of premises other than houses inspected	893
Premises re-inspected ... ..	573
Visits to works in progress ... ..	72
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	630
	2,670

Included in the above table are the following classified visits : :—

Visits to Schools ... ..	14
„ „ places of public entertainment ... ..	9
„ „ swimming bath ... ..	8
„ „ movable dwellings ... ..	128
„ „ stables and piggeries ... ..	52
„ re overcrowding ... ..	12
„ „ Petroleum Acts ... ..	114
„ „ Shop Acts ... ..	4
„ „ collection and disposal of refuse and salvage	291
„ „ verminous premises for disinfestation ...	3
„ „ infectious diseases ... ..	136
„ „ disinfections ... ..	20
„ „ drains tested and cleared ... ..	27
„ „ rats and mice ... ..	213

Details of inspections of food premises and factories are given in the appropriate sections of the Report.

# INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	178
---	-----

Number of dwelling-houses (included above) which were inspected or recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	2
---	---

## *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	48
--	----

## *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

(a) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :	
---	--

(a) by Owners ... ..	*7
----------------------	----

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	Nil
--	-----

(b) Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936 :	
---	--

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served under Section 9 requiring defects to be remedied ...	Nil
--	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :	
---	--

(a) by Owners ... ..	Nil
----------------------	-----

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	Nil
--	-----

(\* Includes notices served 1951)

## HOUSING ACT, 1936—UNFIT HOUSES

Following consultations with Officers of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government the Council decided in October to commence procedure for the demolition of 42 individual unfit houses which were considered to require immediate action. A survey of the houses was in progress at the end of the year but the stage of making demolition orders had not been reached.

## HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses erected since 1945:

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt—

Permanent traditional, including flats	...	...	...	502
Permanent prefabricated	...	...	...	18
Temporary prefabricated	...	...	...	135
By the Edmonton Borough Council	...	...	...	323
By the Tottenham Borough Council	...	...	...	179
By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	236
				<hr/>
				1,393

Number of houses erected during 1952:

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt—

Permanent traditional	...	...	...	30
By the Edmonton Borough Council	...	...	...	123
By the Tottenham Borough Council	...	...	...	79
By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	19
				<hr/>
				251

## HOUSING ACT, 1949—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year applications for Improvement Grants under Section 20, Housing Act, 1949, were received in respect of the proposed conversion of a Club House in Russells Ride into flats and the provision of a bathroom and w.c. at a house in Albury Grove Road. Neither of the applications were granted.

# INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

## 1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	69	39	5	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	74	48	5	—

There are no factories in this area submitting lists of out-workers under Section 110 of the Act. Notifications were received of thirty-eight places of employment of out-workers in this district which had been included in lists submitted to other Councils. Thirty-one inspections were made of out-workers' premises and they were found to be satisfactory.



FACTORIES ACT, 1937—MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE

During the year the following three factories were certified under Section 34 of the Act as being provided with such means of escape in case of fire for the persons employed therein as may reasonably be required in the circumstances:

- Howard Wall, Ltd., Eleanor Cross Road, Waltham Cross.
- Gordon Metal Fabrications, Ltd., Station Approach, Waltham Cross.
- Arlington Motor Co., High Street, Waltham Cross.

INSPECTION OF PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

At the request of the County Council, who are the licensing authority under the Cinematograph Act, 1909, and the Home Counties (Music and Dancing) Licensing Act, 1926, an inspection was made of all premises in the district licensed by the County Council to check whether they had adequate sanitary facilities. The regulations of the County Council do not call for the provision of sanitary conveniences in premises licensed for public entertainment.

The County Council were informed that the number of sanitary conveniences for the use of persons frequenting four of the premises was considered by the Council to be inadequate.

SERVICE OF NOTICES

Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance	...	...	...	...	6
Statutory Notices under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide a covered dustbin	...	...			16
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	...	...	...	...	74
Statutory Notices under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, regarding proposed work of maintenance on sewer	...	...	...	...	1

Statutory Notices under Section 157, Housing Act, 1936, giving notice of entry for the purpose of survey and examination or valuation ... ..	1
--	---

#### SUMMARY

Statutory Notices requiring defects in dwelling-houses to be remedied :

Served, 1952 ... ..	6	Complied with, 1952 ... ..	7
Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1951 ... ..	Nil	Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1952 ... ..	1
Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1951 ... ..	2	Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1952 ... ..	Nil
	<u>8</u>		<u>8</u>

Statutory Notices requiring provision of dustbins :

Served, 1952 ... ..	16	Complied with by:	
Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1951 ... ..	Nil	Owner ... ..	9
Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1951 ... ..	Nil	Occupier ... ..	1
		Local Authority in default	4
		Outstanding, 31st Dec., 1952 ... ..	1
		Unexpired, 31st Dec., 1952 ... ..	1
	<u>16</u>		<u>16</u>

Intimation Notices :

Outstanding, 31st December, 1951 ... ..	39
Outstanding, 31st December, 1952 ... ..	30
Served during 1952 ... ..	144

#### WATER

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

All dwelling-houses in the district are supplied from public mains direct to the houses with the exception of approximately twelve outlying cottages and farms, where the water is obtained from private sources.



Details of the reports on all samples of water taken during the year are shown in the table which follows. All were from private sources of supply.

At Temple House, where the unsatisfactory sample No. 4 was obtained, the source of supply was a private well. All water from the well is boiled or chlorinated before use for drinking purposes.

At Aqueduct Cottage, from which the unsatisfactory samples numbered 10, 11 and 14 were obtained, the water supply is pumped from a well.

At Aqueduct Lock House, from which the unsatisfactory samples numbered 12, 13 and 15 were obtained, filtered river water is used for drinking purposes. In each case after the first unsatisfactory report the occupier was advised that all water should be boiled before use. At Aqueduct Lock House the filter was cleansed and sterilised and a further sample taken. When this was reported upon as unsatisfactory a new filter candle was fitted. A further check sample, however, proved to be unsatisfactory and at both cottages the owners undertook to instal new filtration units.

In June the Council undertook to give a guarantee under Section 36 of the Water Act, 1945, to the Metropolitan Water Board in respect of the proposed extension of water mains in Crouch Lane from Elms Farm to Rags Lane.

# REPORT ON WATER SAMPLES

No.	Date	Address	Plate Count		Coli		Approx. Proportns.		Remarks
			3 days 22° C.	2 days 37° C.	per 100 ml	Faecal Coli	Non-faecal Coli		
1	19.2.52	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap in School Kitchen ...	15	5	—	—	—	Satisfactory	
2	19.2.52	Canada Cottage, Great Cam- bridge Road—Outlet of meta- filter ... ..	12	8	—	—	—	Satisfactory	
3	18.3.52	Theobalds Secondary School —Tap in domestic science room ... ..	3	3	—	—	—	Satisfactory	
4	24.3.52	Temple House, Theobalds Park—Tap over kitchen sink	70	20	5	20	80	Unsatisfactory	
5	29.4.52	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park—Standpipe ... ..	10	5	—	—	—	Satisfactory	
6	6.5.52	Lockhouse, Cheshunt—Berke- field filter ... ..	5	3	—	—	—	Satisfactory	
7	8.7.52	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park—Standpipe ... ..	40	10	—	—	—	Satisfactory	

No.	Date	Address	Plate Count		Coli Approx. Proportns.		Remarks
			3 days 22° C.	2 days 37° C.	per 100 ml	Faecal Coli	
8	2.9.52	Camping Ground, Theobalds Park—Standpipe ...	12	5	—	—	Satisfactory
9	9.9.52	Lockhouse, Cheshunt, Berkeley field filter ...	5	2	—	—	Satisfactory
10	30.9.52	Aqueduct Cottage, River Lea Bank—Tap over kitchen sink	Too many to count	Too many to count	50	—	100 Unsatisfactory
11	14.10.52	Aqueduct Cottage, River Lea Bank—Tap over kitchen sink	Too many to count	Too many to count	25	20	80 Unsatisfactory
12	14.10.52	Aqueduct Lock House, River Lea Bank—Berkefield filter ...	Too many to count	Too many to count	35	100	— Unsatisfactory
13	28.10.52	Aqueduct Lock House, River Lea Bank—Berkefield filter ...	Too many to count	Too many to count	600	40	60 Unsatisfactory
14	28.10.52	Aqueduct Cottage, River Lea Bank—Tap over kitchen sink	Too many to count	Too many to count	50	—	100 Unsatisfactory
15	19.11.52	Aqueduct Lock House, River Lea Bank—Berkefield filter ...	Too many to count	Too many to count	250	100	— Unsatisfactory

## SWIMMING BATH

There are no publicly-owned baths or pools in the area. The swimming pool of the Cheshunt Swimming Club, which is privately-owned, is operated on the fill and empty system with water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. A drip feed chlorinator is used and partial circulation of the water is obtained by pumping. Tests for free chlorine are carried out with a Chlorotex indicator.

Eight samples were taken during the season, one for full chemical and bacteriological examination and seven for bacteriological examination only. All the bacteriological reports were satisfactory. The full chemical and bacteriological report again commented upon the desirability of a higher standard of clarity in the water, particularly from the aspect of safety and clear visibility in the deep part of the bath.

## MOVABLE DWELLINGS

A survey of all known movable dwellings in the urban district was undertaken towards the end of 1951 and this showed that there were eighty-one caravans on twenty-two sites. The report on the survey was considered by the Council in January and appropriate action was authorised to bring all the sites under effective control.

Enforcement notices under Section 23 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, were served in respect of eight sites, including the site at Burton Grange, which was the subject of a Town Planning Appeal in March against the Council's refusal to permit the development of the land as a caravan site.

Consents under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, were renewed in respect of thirty-four movable dwellings on the Willows Site, Waltham Cross, for a further period of

twelve months. New consents in respect of two movable dwellings were granted for a similar period for this site, and an application in respect of an additional dwelling was refused.

Consent was also renewed for a further twelve months for a movable dwelling at 209, Windmill Lane, Cheshunt. An application under the Act in respect of a movable dwelling at Appleby Street Farm was refused.

Applications were considered in respect of sites at St. Lawrence Farm, Goff's Oak; Lea Valley Sand and Ballast Pits, Turnford; Bury Green House; Pylon Farm, St. James Road; Springfield Nursery, Crouch Lane, and land occupied by Smith, St. James Road. The applicants were informed of the requirements of the Council in relation to drainage, sanitary accommodation, water supply and hard standing which would be necessary before consent was granted.

Consent for the seasonal use of the site at the Jolly Bargeman Public House, River Lea Bank, for caravans was granted for six months to 31st October, 1952. An application for renewal for a further six months was refused in October. The site continued in use for residential purposes but proceedings authorised by the Council in respect of this contravention of the Act were not heard before the end of the year.

## INFESTATION

The use of contact insecticides and where necessary the steam disinfection of bedding and clothing are the methods used to combat infestation.

Hand sprayers and contact insecticides in small tins are available from the Public Health Department for purchase by householders for follow-up treatment or for use where infestation is slight.

## RATS AND MICE

Treatment of infestation of private dwellings is carried out free of charge but charges are made for rodent control work done at other premises. The following table shows the rodent control work carried out during the year.

# RODENT CONTROL

Year ended 31st December, 1952	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
Total number of properties ...	7	6,561	52	798	7,418
Number of properties inspected .	2	406	6	29	443
Number of properties found to be infested by rats ...	2 Major — Minor	3 114	— 5	5 19	10 138
Number of properties found to be seriously infested by mice ...	—	10	—	4	14
Number of infested properties treated ...	2	127	5	28	162



The half-yearly maintenance treatment of soil sewers was carried out in March and details of this and previous sewer treatments are given in the following table:—

Treatment	Date Comm.	Total No. Manholes	No. Baited	Average Pre-bait Takes			
				Complete Take	Partial Take	Total Take	No. Take
1. Initial	20.7.49	366	306	12	18	30	276
2. Initial	26.8.49	366	46	1	9	10	36
3. 1st Maint'nce	24.1.50	366	67	2	12	14	53
4. 2nd Maint'nce	9.8.50	366	103	5	13	18	85
5. 3rd Maint'nce	7.3.51	366	67	7	8	15	52
6. 4th Maint'nce	24.9.51	366	109	3	13	16	93
7. 5th Maint'nce	17.3.52	366	81	—	4	4	77

In view of the very small and scattered rat population in the sewers the Council with the recommendation of the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries decided to carry out vertical block control methods in place of the half-yearly sewer maintenance treatment, subject to an annual 10% test baiting of the sewers.

By “ Vertical Block Control ” is meant survey and treatment of the whole of the infested area or block of buildings (including the sewers) irrespective of separate tenancies of the land or buildings.

Should the annual test reveal any new centre of infestation then the normal sewer maintenance treatment will be resumed.

The quarterly meeting of the No. 7 London Workable Area Committee was held in Cheshunt in December. The main purpose of the Committee is to provide machinery for representatives of the Ministry, of the Agricultural Executive Committees and the Local Authorities to discuss the rodent situation and formulate plans appropriate to the needs of the area.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of refuse is carried out by means of six Shelvoke and Drewry Chelsea Type Freighters and disposal is by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit.

During the year site preparation work was carried out at the tip at a cost of £228. A hired Bulldozer was used and the work involved the levelling off of numerous mounds of earth and the division of a water area on the site into a number of small lagoons.

During the fly breeding season the tip was sprayed with a gammexane dispersible powder in water.

Details of salvage sales during the year, together with the figures for 1951, were as follows:—

		1951					1952				
		Weight		Value			Weight		Value		
		Tons	Cwt.	£	s.	d.	Tons	Cwt.	£	s.	d.
Paper	...	196	5½	2985	4	4	177	4¾	1915	10	10
Pig Food	...	163	0	192	13	4	168	0	229	3	4
Rags	...	10	9¼	479	17	4	8	6¾	293	2	9
Bottles and Jars		16	1	73	8	10	10	16	60	6	0
Light Metal	...	1	2¾	113	9	5	1	1¾	126	7	0
Cullet	...	1	17	3	14	0	5	14¾	10	2	3
Boots and Shoes	-	12		3	12	0	—		—		
		389	7½	£3851	19	3	371	4	£2634	12	2

The cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal for the past three years, after the income from salvage sales had been deducted, was as follows:—

Year to 31st March	..	1951	1952	1953
Population	...	22,180	23,290	23,880
Net Cost	...	£7,843	£8,041	£10,015
Cost per 1,000 population		£353.607	£345.255	£430

Early in the year there was a slump in demand for waste paper and an appreciable reduction in price. The Council

have a contract for the sale of waste paper with Messrs. Thames Board Mills, Ltd. In June the Council agreed to curtail the quantity of waste paper collected on a "Quota" basis in accordance with the recommendation of a Special Committee who considered that a system of proportionate reduction should be used over the whole of the established collecting services.

The incentive bonus payment to men engaged on salvage work was amended as from the 1st January, following consideration of the report of the District Auditor, from 25% of salvage sales (the rate fixed in 1938) to a lump sum payment of £3 12s. 6d. per ton of salvage (excluding pig food) sold. As from the 1st August following the reduction in salvage prices the scheme was again amended and payment made on the former basis of 25% of salvage sales, excluding kitchen waste.

The collection of kitchen waste is carried out from communal street bins by a private contractor under annual contract. The bins are regularly cleansed at the contractor's depot and during the summer months the bins and bin stands are sprayed with D.D.T. During the year the scheme was extended to new housing estates in the district.

## REFUSE DUMPS

Dumping of refuse is controlled by consents granted under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, by the County Council and the District Council.

A number of sites which were previously excavated for gravel are now being filled and no action was necessary during the year in respect of contraventions of the terms of consent. No new consents were granted during the year.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act, which controls the keeping of a pet shop, came into operation on 1st April, 1952.

One shop was licensed by the Council and the conditions recommended by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were incorporated in the licence.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK AND DAIRIES

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the registration of dairy farms and for the enforcement on dairy farms of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The District Council is responsible for those provisions of the Regulations which apply outside dairy farms, for the registration of dairies which are not dairy farms and of dairy men who are not dairy farmers.

Twenty-nine visits to dairies were made during the year and twenty-six samples of milk from various retailers were submitted for examination. All the samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

Where unsatisfactory samples are taken by this Authority and can be identified with a known farm or a known heat treatment plant then in accordance with a scheme formulated at the request of the County Milk Advisory Sub-Committee, the results of the tests are sent to the County Milk Regulations Officer or to the Food and Drugs Authority, as the case may be. Advisory visits and such further investigations as may be necessary are then undertaken.

Reports on samples taken by the County Council for biological examination for tubercule bacilli showed a positive result at one farm.

At this farm there was a previous history of tuberculous milk and subsequent veterinary investigations failed to find the source of infection. A notice under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, served in 1951 has not yet been withdrawn and the milk supply is used for the production of sterilised milk. Three persons engaged in milk production attended Chest Clinics in May for X-ray examinations, which showed no pulmonary tuberculosis. The investigation was not completed at the end of the year.

#### MILK LICENCES

Licences were granted for the year 1952 as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested—Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	3
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence	...	...	...	4
Pasteurised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	6
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	...	4
Sterilised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	13
Sterilised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	...	5

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the year four hundred and seventy-nine visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale as detailed in the following table:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	8
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	...	51
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	23
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	77
Cafés and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	92
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	24
Licenced Premises	...	...	...	...	...	38
Other Food Shops and Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	166

The following food stuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:—



Canned Goods of all descriptions	...	...	980 tins
Beef	.....	147 lb.	Sponge Mixture ... 8 pkts.
Lamb	.....	477½ lb.	Skinned Rabbits ..... 1 case
Pork	.....	7½ lb.	Granulated Sugar ... 60 lb.
Bacon	.....	12½ lb.	Pineapples ..... 89 jars
Eggs	.....	21	Apricots ..... 9 jars
Cornflakes	.....	6 pkts.	Peaches ..... 5 jars
Sandwich Loaf	.....	1 ptn.	Fruit Salad ..... 3 jars
T.T. Pasteurised			Figs in Syrup ..... 1 jar
Milk	.....	2 bottles	

Practically the whole of the foodstuffs surrendered were examined on request at retailers' or wholesalers' premises but four complaints were received regarding foodstuffs which had been sold, as follows:—

- (a) A tin of peas purchased from a retailer's shop in Waltham Cross was found to contain a box of matches among the contents. A letter was received from the Managing Director of the firm of canners stating that he was unable to account for the presence of the matches as it would be impossible for the box to pass through the preparation machine without being eliminated mechanically or seen in the final inspection.
- (b) A loaf of bread delivered to a resident of Cheshunt by a Hoddesdon baker was found to contain a large insect. The baker wrote stating that the bakehouse was comparatively new with a tiled floor and most strict supervision and precautions were exercised regarding cleanliness. This statement was confirmed by the Sanitary Inspector of Hoddesdon.
- (c) A bottle of T.T. Pasteurised Milk was found by the purchaser to contain some extraneous substance on the interior of the bottle. A sample of the milk was sub-

mitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination and it was found to be satisfactory. The dairy company concerned wrote explaining the difficulty experienced in cleaning new bottles owing to the presence of manufacturer's dust and stated that every precaution was taken to ensure cleanliness.

- (d) A bottle of T.T. Pasteurised Milk was found by the purchaser to contain a used aluminium bottle cap.

The Council decided in all cases to issue a warning letter to the firms concerned.

Part of a consignment of tinned pork delivered to a local retailer was found on examination to be unfit. A number of the tins were blown and specimen tins opened had an unpleasant smell. Three tins were submitted for bacteriological examination. The tins were labelled "Perishable, keep under refrigeration," and the laboratory report stated that "these tins are not processed under conditions which ensure sterility, they are subject to spoilage at atmospheric temperatures and cannot be considered safe for human consumption unless the instructions to keep under refrigeration are rigidly carried out."

Packs of tinned meat which are perishable at atmospheric temperatures are not usual in this country and it would appear to be a difficult matter to ensure that goods of this type are kept under refrigeration at all stages of distribution and storage. Details of the consignment and of the laboratory report were forwarded to the Ministry of Food.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no slaughterhouses in regular use in this district but one is used occasionally for the slaughter of pigs.



## CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known	—	—	—	—	15
Number inspected ...	—	—	—	—	15
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis :</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis ...	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis ...	—	—	—	—	6.7

## CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

During routine visits to food premises the opportunity is always taken of emphasising the need for constant care in food handling and particular attention was given to securing compliance with the Clean Food Bye-laws.

The standard of hygiene at food premises generally was found to be good.

A talk was given to the Women's Co-operative Guild, when food hygiene was discussed.

## ICE CREAM

### SAMPLING

Examination of ice cream samples is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Hertford by the methylene blue test and the samples are graded according to Ministry of Health provisional grades. Plate counts on the samples and presumptive tests for B.Coli are not carried out.

During the period from 24th March to 19th August, sixty samples of ice cream and fruit ice were submitted for examination.

The results may be summarised as follows:—

Grades			Wrapped Ice Cream	Unwrapped Ice Cream	Total
I	...	...	40	9	49
II	...	...	10	1	11
III	...	...	—	—	—
IV	...	...	—	—	—

Where ice cream consistently fails to reach Grades I and II of the provisional grades it is suggested that it would be reasonable to regard this as indicating defects of manufacture or handling which call for further investigation.

The test is not a statutory test and non-compliance with it does not constitute an offence.

The high standard shown by the sample results this year is a matter for satisfaction. The practice of selling ice cream wrapped, which is now general, has rendered obsolete the use of serving equipment in retail shops and this equipment was often a potential source of contamination due to the difficulty of maintaining it in a sterile condition.

At least one sample of ice cream was taken from each registered retail purveyor in the district.

#### REGISTRATION OF ICE CREAM PREMISES

Premises used for the sale, storage and manufacture of ice cream must be registered for that purpose by the local authority.

Five premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, and one for the manufacture only. At all these premises manufacturing has been discontinued. At the end of the year there were fifty-seven premises on the register at which ice cream is stored and sold.

#### REGISTRATION OF PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES

Premises used for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale are required to be registered for that purpose with the local authority. At the end of the year there were twenty such premises on the register.

#### ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The Food and Drugs Inspector of the County Council, which is the Food and Drugs Authority, has kindly supplied the following particulars of samples taken in Cheshunt during the year:—

Article	Procured	Genuine	Not Genuine
	No.	No.	No.
Milk ... ..	15	15	—
Pork Sausage ...	3	3	—
Beef Sausage ...	3	3	—
Beef Sausage Meat ...	1	1	—

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